

HISTORY OF POPE PARK

Pope Park was donated to the city of Hartford by Colonel Albert Pope for the use of his employees and city residents to enjoy games, walking and out-of-door activities in general. Colonel Pope was the head of the Pope Manufacturing Company, which manufactured bicycles and automobiles, including the well-known Columbia bicycle.



The park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects in 1898, and originally consisted of 90.5 acres. In its original form the park had three separate sections. Its boundaries were defined by the southern branch of the Park River, which today runs underground beneath the park.

Pope Park was deeded to the City of Hartford by the Pope family in 1895 "for park purposes only", and was designed by Olmsted firm as an example of the best that a park can contribute to the neighborhood. Up to this day, the land is being utilized for a public park. The Park has athletic fields, a recreation center, a pond, and various other components that the surrounding community enjoys.

Unfortunately, the last half century has seen a gradual decline of this valuable neighborhood resource. Preserving and restoring the park is an essential component to the area's revitalization.

Friends of Pope Park
P.O. Box 260068
Hartford, CT 06126

THE FRIENDS OF POPE PARK



WHO ARE WE?

The Friends of Pope Park are a group of neighborhood residents who have formed a partnership for the improvement of Pope Park. It is a non-profit organization operated exclusively for charitable purposes.

The Friends of Pope Park recognizes the importance of the historic preservation of a century-old park as well as the opportunity to make it accessible to the Hartford residents of today and the future. Improvements to the park will benefit the City of Hartford and its residents.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The mission of The Friends of Pope Park is to improve the quality of life for area and city residents through the use of Pope Park and its facilities.

The Friends of Pope Park have actively sought funding to undertake smaller improvements and beautification projects. We have worked with the Pope Hartford Designated Fund, a committee designated by the City of Hartford to oversee and utilize the money generated by the billboard lease arrangements of 1999, to contract for a Master Plan which would provide a vision from which to orient all restoration and enhancement efforts.

The Plan, completed in 2002, proposes a substantial \$10 million capital improvement project to significantly enhance the Park.

CONTACT US

Friends of Pope Park
P.O. Box 260068
Hartford, CT 06126
or email Steve Mirsky at MirskyS@netscape.net

THE MASTER PLAN FOR POPE PARK

Although the integrity of the Olmsted plan is still evident in the Pope Park of today, many elements integral to the original design have disappeared. Updates for modern uses have violated some of the basic design elements. Intrusions by roads, increased volume of vehicular traffic and a lack of formal parking spaces has degraded the health of the lawn.

The Hartford Parks Master Plan, prepared in 1992 by the City of Hartford, addressed the need "for wise stewardship of all parks" and made recommendations for improvements in thirty-two city parks. In 2000, Friends of Pope Park started working with Pope Hartford Designated Fund/Knox Parks Foundation to realize the recommendations made in the Hartford Parks Master Plan. The Friends recognized the need for a Pope Park Master Plan which would provide a vision from which to orient all restoration and enhancement efforts.

The Master Plan was developed by Carol R. Johnson and Associates and is the result of work by Friends of Pope Park, public meetings, user surveys and historic research. The Master Plan reflects a thorough examination of the existing conditions and historic elements. Current uses and desired uses are described, and potential park improvement areas are noted. The Master Plan Report describes the costs of the plan, the potential funding sources and the ability to construct the project over a 3 or 10 year time period.

A complete copy of the Master Plan is available at The Parisky Group offices, 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT, 06106.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Please consider joining the Friends of Pope Park and helping us in this important work.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____

Fax No. () _____

Email address _____

Membership Levels (please check):

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| _____ | \$2 | Individual |
| _____ | \$10 | Hartford families |
| _____ | \$50 | Out of town families |
| _____ | \$75 | Small businesses
(less than 15 employees) |
| _____ | \$150 | Corporations |
| _____ | \$500 | Patron |
| _____ | \$1000 | Benefactor |

_____ I would be interested in serving on a work group or committee. Please contact me.

You are welcome to attend our meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Pope Park Recreation Center.



Please mail to:
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**THANK
YOU!**

Contributions to The Friends of Pope Park are fully tax deductible.